

# Annual Report

On the Health of the  
Borough of Newport,  
Isle of Wight,  
for the year 1948

BY

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),  
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.


*Medical Officer of Health.*

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION  
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.

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BOROUGH OF NEWPORT, I.W.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1948.

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COUNTY HALL,  
HIGH STREET,  
NEWPORT, I.W.  
*September, 1949.*

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and  
Councillors of the Borough of Newport,  
Isle of Wight.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Newport for the year 1948.

The birth-rate decreased by 1·5 per thousand of the population and the death-rate decreased by 1·4 per thousand.

The infantile mortality rate decreased by 8·3 and was less than the rate for England and Wales generally by 9·0.

There was an increase in the number of Infectious Disease notifications, the figure being 193 compared with 133 the previous year.

Low standards of hygiene in the handling of food are reflected in the increasing numbers of cases of food poisoning.

The number of cases brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health is only a very small fraction of the true figure. The individual afflicted with a short sharp attack of diarrhoea or vomiting, or both, usually does not bother his doctor and seeks his remedy from the chemist directly.

Efforts are continually being made by the staff of the Health Department to make food handlers acutely aware of the grave responsibility that lies in their hands.

Unfortunately the war has given certain food shops an excuse for careless hygiene which has passed on easily into

the peace. There is now no difficulty in obtaining wrapping papers and no bread should be handed to the purchaser in an unwrapped state.

Flies can be controlled in fish shops. It has been my experience that the large fish shops offend more in this respect than the small. The health officers are endeavouring to educate the offenders.

In certain public-houses the standard of cleanliness of glassware is very low, and efforts are also being made in this direction to enforce a decent standard of hygiene where none exists.

The housing problem is still acute and is the cause of much physical as well as mental ill-health. Bad housing is a great social blot which will undermine all the other efforts to provide a healthy contented people.

Excellent airy schools are of greatly reduced value if the children have to return to overcrowded homes, where their feeling of security is constantly threatened by the domestic upheavals consequent upon many families sharing the one roof, and in some case the one room. Overcrowding is the most important single adverse social factor affecting the welfare of the children.

If tuberculosis is present in a family living under overcrowded conditions, the chance of its wide dissemination is great.

It has been wisely said that the problem of tuberculosis is as much a problem of the one and two-roomed house (or home) as a problem of medical care. Sir J. B. Russell in 1888, said :—

“Imagine yourselves with all your appetites and passions, your bodily necessities and functions, your feelings of modesty, your sense of propriety, your births, your sickness, your deaths, your children—in short your *lives* in the whole round of their relationship with the seen and the unseen suddenly shrivelled and shrunk into such conditions of space.”

These conditions even in this year 1948 are not just imaginings, but are actualities.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1948.

*Medical Officer of Health—*

JOHN MILLS, M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P.  
(LOND.), D.P.H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat & Food Inspector—*

A. F. HART, CERT. R.S.I.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector—*

R. A. HALLETT, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures)	...	...	...	...	...	20,300
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948) per	...	...	...	...	...	...
rate books	...	...	...	...	...	5,160
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£136,108
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£542 13s. 9d.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident	...	...	...	...	...	17·7
population	...	...	...	...	...	...
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	27·0
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	10·2
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and	...	...	...	...	...	...
childbirth :—	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	...	...	...	...	...	...
All infants per 1000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	25·0
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	14·9
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live	...	...	...	...	...	...
births	...	...	...	...	...	160·0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	23
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	1

## BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 360 of which 335 were legitimate and 25 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 17·7 per 1000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 17·9.

## DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 207 which gives a death rate of 10·2 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 10·8

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 25·0 per 1000 registered live births; the rate for England and Wales generally was 34·0.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year 1948 there was no interruption of the water supply in Newport due to the steady supply maintained from the bore holes in the orchard at Carisbrooke. Although economy in the use of water by the public was urged, it was not found necessary to cut off the supply at night during the summer. The water from all sources is chlorinated and monthly samples of the treated water showed no evidence of harmful pollution. Quarterly samples of the raw waters submitted for bacteriological examination showed no evidence of pollution. Chemical analysis of the main supply yielded a satisfactory report.

5,090 dwellinghouses, with an estimated population of 19,852, are supplied with water from the corporation water mains. None are supplied by means of stand-pipes.

## SWIMMING POOL.

Bacteriological examination of the water in the swimming pool continued satisfactory throughout the year.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

Several new drainage installations have been carried out, particularly at farm premises. Further schemes are in hand and it is hoped that they will be completed during the present year.

## **HOUSING.**

Once again work in connection with the repair of structural defects and the abatement of nuisances in connection with housing accommodation has greatly increased and during the year 353 houses were inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts. Structural repairs were found to be necessary in all cases and the majority of this work has been completed.

To secure compliance with the requirements of these Acts, 32 Statutory Notices were issued and of these 28 have been complied with by the owners. Failure on the part of one property owner to comply with the requirements of a Statutory Notice, resulted in legal proceedings being taken against him under the Public Health Act. This prosecution was successful, and it is felt that the publicity afforded the case resulted in a greater readiness on the part of other owners to comply with similar notices.

In spite of all these improvements, very much remains to be done to bring the older inhabited houses up to the present-day standard of fitness. In view of the general improvements in the supply of building materials it is hoped that this work will proceed unabated in the future.

## **GENERAL HEALTH MATTERS.**

Inspections and visits of a general character greatly increased in numbers, 629 visits having been made under the Public Health Acts and 788 visits and inspections to Farms and Dairies, Bakehouses, Slaughterhouses, Foodshops and Stores under the Food and Drugs Acts. In addition 121 miscellaneous visits and inspections were made.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Following is the report in respect of matters under Part I and Part VIII of the Act which are administered by the Council :—

### PART I OF THE ACT.

### INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	35	18	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	131	44	16	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	47	8	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	213	70	16	—

### CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	5	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	4	4	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	3	3	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	2	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	16	16	—	4	—

## PART VIII OF THE ACT.

## OUTWORK.

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	22	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of work	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	22	—	—	—	—	—

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The supervision of conditions and premises used for the preparation and sale of all types of food has called for constant attention throughout the year. This work has become increasingly important in view of the greater discrimination of the general public. There has been a marked increase in the number of catering establishments and vendors of Ice Cream, and frequent visits are necessary in order to see that these premises are maintained in the most hygienic conditions. Several of the premises concerned with retail food handling, particularly butchers' shops, have had structural improvements completed during the past year and these premises have been raised to the highest standard of fitness.

The work of meat inspection at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses in the Borough has once again increased, 420 visits having been made to these premises.

Although the total number of animals slaughtered decreased slightly, the number of Beasts killed increased considerably, and this factor calls for a proportionally higher number of inspections, which easily outweighs the total decrease in numbers inspected. (Details of animals inspected and amounts condemned are shown on the Schedule).

### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	2112	—	5930	2833	1693
Number inspected ... ..	2112	—	5930	2833	1693
<b>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis.</b>					
Whole Carcaes condemned ...	8		2	12	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1195		4	227	12
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	56.39	—	.101	8.43	1.3
<b>Tuberculosis Only.</b>					
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	39		—	—	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	968		—	18	34
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	47.69	—	—	.63	2.54

	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Total meat condemned ... ..	32	0	1	4
Other Foodstuffs ... ..	2	2	0	2
	34	2	1	6

In addition 2,514 tins of various foodstuffs were destroyed.

## **PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases, was 193 compared with 133 in 1947. Scarlet Fever accounted for 44, Measles for 49. There were 3 notifications of Diphtheria.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continued throughout the year. Every effort is made to persuade parents to take advantage of this universally acknowledged protective measure against one of the most killing diseases of childhood. All children at the age of 6 months are offered protection and a further "boosting" dose is offered on entry into the infants' schools.

Of the children under 5, 51.1% are immunised and of children of school age, 89.9% are immunised.

## **INFANTILE PARALYSIS.**

No cases.

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1948.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	44	13	—
Diphtheria ...	3	3	—
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	8	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Other diseases gen- erally notifiable			
<i>Erysipelas</i> ...	5	—	—
<i>Encephalitis</i> <i>Lethargica</i> ...	—	—	—
<i>Cerebro Spinal</i> <i>Meningitis</i> ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	83	1	—
Measles ...	49	1	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
TOTALS	193	20	—

NOTE.—Figures for non-civilians are not included.

## AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Malaria.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	Whooping Cough.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles.
Under 1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	1
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	5
2 " " 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	3
3 " " 4	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	4
4 " " 5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	6
5 " " 10	29	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	26
10 " " 15	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
15 " " 20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1
20 " " 35	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
35 " " 45	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	44	3	1	8	5	—	—	—	—	—	83	—	49

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**TUBERCULOSIS, 1948.**

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1     "     5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5     "     10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10    "     15	5	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—
15    "     20	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20    "     25	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
25    "     35	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
35    "     45	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
45    "     55	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
55    "     65	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
65 and over	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13*	5	1	2	5	8†	4	3	1	—

\*Included in this total are two patients who have been transferred from the mainland, one old case lost sight of and returned, and one old case left Island and returned.

†Includes one case in which the Death Returns gave the first information, and one case who died from another disease.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
OCCURRING IN SCHOOLS

Mumps	...	...	7	Influenza	...	...	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	111	Influenzal colds	...	...	—
German Measles	...	...	19	Jaundice	...	...	—
Scabies	...	...	—				—
Ringworm	...	...	—				137
Impetigo	...	...	—				—



